

# REDUCING RECIDIVISM

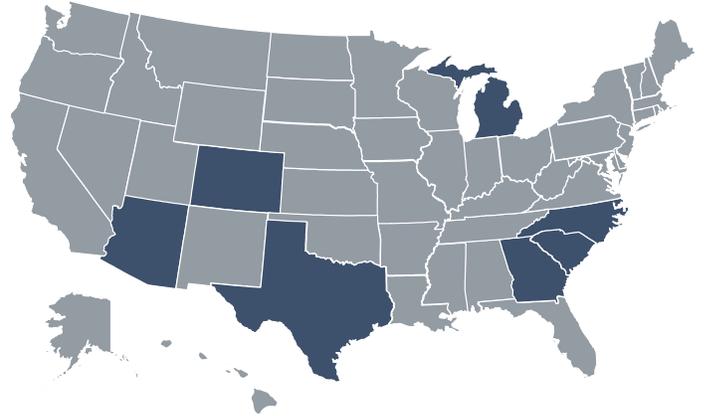
## STATES DELIVER RESULTS

**JUNE 2017**

Efforts to reduce recidivism are grounded in the ability to accurately and consistently collect and analyze various forms of data. To that end, states have developed increasingly sophisticated and comprehensive recidivism tracking methods. By improving the accuracy and consistency of data collection, using more timely measures, and expanding the types of recidivism metrics that are tracked as well as the populations to which these metrics are applied, states are now better positioned to understand and respond to recidivism trends. This brief highlights seven states in which recidivism has

significantly decreased according to several different measures. These same states have also experienced reductions in violent crime rates over the last decade. The recidivism data included in this brief is not meant to be compared state by state; it is meant to show individual examples of state successes across various recidivism measures.

STATES HIGHLIGHTED IN THIS BRIEF



## Methodology

This brief uses publicly available data from state agencies to identify achievements in recidivism reduction. Two types of recidivism are presented in this document—cohort-based and revocation-based. **Cohort-based recidivism** is measured by tracking a set group of people over a specified time period. This type of recidivism is always presented as a rate representing the proportion of people who recidivate as compared to the whole cohort. For example, a cohort-based analysis of prison releases may track all people released in 2010 and measure the rate of returns to prison within three years. If there were 100 people in the 2010 release cohort and 32 of them returned to prison within three years, the recidivism rate for this cohort would be 32 percent.

Cohort-based recidivism tends to be a less timely indicator than revocation-based recidivism due to the time period necessary for tracking. In the example above that uses a cohort of people released from prison in 2010, it would not be possible to calculate a three-year recidivism rate until after the end of 2013. Compounded by the time needed to conduct the analysis and publish results, this three- to four-year lag is commonly present for recidivism rates of any given cohort. Despite this lag, cohort-based recidivism is an important measure because it indicates how well a system is doing at limiting people's continued criminal justice involvement.

**Revocation-based recidivism** is measured by identifying people who are on either probation or parole who have had their supervision status terminated either due to a technical violation of the conditions of their supervision (e.g., failing a drug test or missing an appointment with a supervision officer) or because they were arrested and convicted of a new crime.

While some states publish the rate of revocations from supervision, most states publish the exact number of probation and/or parole revocations that occur within each calendar year. For example, if 25 out of 100 people exiting probation were revoked, the exact number would be 25 revocations in a year while the rate of probation revocations would be 25 percent. In some states, revocation rates are calculated as the total number of revocations out of the total supervision population on a given day.

Probation revocation may or may not result in jail or prison incarceration time, while a parole revocation nearly always results in prison incarceration. Revocation-based recidivism is an important measure because it shows how a system responds to noncompliant behavior, which may or may not include criminal behavior, and because supervision revocations can be a driver of prison population growth.

Because the type of information that is tracked and published in each state varies, different definitions of recidivism and means of measuring that recidivism vary across the state examples presented in this brief. The volume and rate of revocation-based recidivism are presented when possible, and rates are consistently presented for cohort-based recidivism data. Each state example also includes a summary of the types of recidivism data collected by that state.

## KEY MEASURES OF RECIDIVISM



**REARREST** is the broadest measure of recidivism. Because not all rearrests result in a guilty finding or conviction, this metric may suggest that there is more criminal activity than there actually is. However, it is still an important measure of the volume of people returning to courts and county jails as well as the most comprehensive indicator of a person's interaction with the criminal justice system.



**RECONVICTION** provides clear evidence that new criminal activity has been committed by someone with prior involvement in the criminal justice system and is considered the most accurate indicator of recidivism and public safety outcomes.



**REINCARCERATION** can be the result of both criminal and non-criminal behavior (e.g., incarceration for certain supervision violations), and generally refers to prison incarceration. Incarceration is the most costly criminal justice response available to states, and it also generates a significant financial burden for local jurisdictions, which are often responsible for incarcerating people who have been revoked. Due to the simplicity and availability of data needed for analysis, this measure is the most commonly used across states.



**REVOCATION** occurs when people who have been sentenced to probation supervision or who have been placed on probation or parole following a term of incarceration have their supervision status revoked and are incarcerated as a response to their behavior. Revocation can be the result of both criminal and non-criminal behavior (e.g., arrest or conviction for a new crime or the violation of supervision conditions), and has significant cost implications for local and state governments.

# RECIDIVISM-REDUCTION HIGHLIGHTS



## REARREST



**MICHIGAN**  
-20 PERCENT



**TEXAS**  
-6 PERCENT



## RECONVICTION\*



**ARIZONA**  
-21 PERCENT

\*Number of people on probation with a new felony conviction



## REINCARCERATION



**ARIZONA**  
-13 PERCENT



**MICHIGAN**  
-20 PERCENT



**NORTH CAROLINA**  
-7 PERCENT



**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
-21 PERCENT



**TEXAS**  
-25 PERCENT



## REVOCAION\*\*



**ARIZONA**  
-29 PERCENT



**COLORADO**  
-24 PERCENT



**GEORGIA**  
-35 PERCENT



**MICHIGAN**  
-43 PERCENT



**NORTH CAROLINA**  
-42 PERCENT



**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
-46 PERCENT



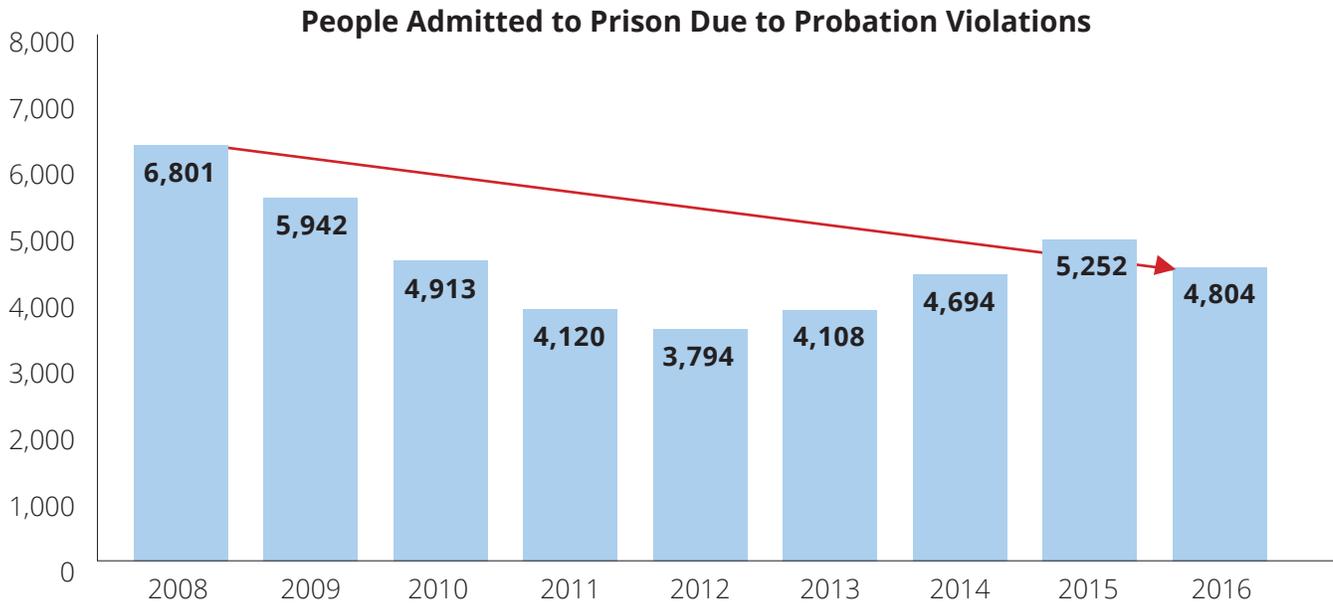
**TEXAS**  
-33 PERCENT

\*\*Volume or rate of parole or probation revocations

# ARIZONA

## 29-percent decline in probation revocations to prison

Between 2008 and 2016, the number of people revoked to prison for probation violations dropped from 6,801 to 4,804. During this same period, the total number of people on probation remained steady at approximately 42,000.<sup>1</sup>



### ADDITIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY MEASURES



#### 13-percent decline in three-year reincarceration rate

Between 2001 and 2010, the rate of people returning to prison within three years of release decreased from 42 percent to 37 percent.<sup>2</sup>



#### 21-percent decline in new felony convictions

Between 2008 and 2016, the number of people on probation with a new felony conviction decreased from 3,174 to 2,496.<sup>3</sup>



#### 24-percent decline in violent crime rate

Between 2006 and 2015, the number of violent crimes reported per 100,000 residents declined 24 percent from 543 to 410.<sup>4</sup>

#### PUBLICLY AVAILABLE RECIDIVISM DATA

PUBLICLY AVAILABLE RECIDIVISM DATA		PEOPLE RELEASED FROM PRISON	PEOPLE ON PAROLE	PEOPLE ON PROBATION
3-YEAR FOLLOW-UP	REARREST			
	RECONVICTION			
	REINCARCERATION	✓		
ANNUAL REVOCATIONS	TECHNICAL VIOLATION	NOT APPLICABLE		✓
	NEW CRIME	NOT APPLICABLE		✓
	TOTAL	NOT APPLICABLE	✓	✓



## SAFE COMMUNITIES ACT OF 2008

In 2008, the Arizona legislature passed the Safe Communities Act, which

- Focused probation supervision on people assessed as being at a high risk of reoffending;
- Created incentives for county probation agencies to reduce revocations; and
- Established earned time credits for people on probation who complied with the terms of their supervision.

## 18 SECOND CHANCE ACT GRANT AWARDS

Arizona has received \$8.8 million in federal investments that include

- Two grants for nonprofit organizations to support existing comprehensive, evidence-based mentoring reentry services for people returning to their communities from incarceration; and
- Two grants for a state agency and a nonprofit organization to provide technology career training to people in prison, with continued program and service supports after they are released.

“Arizona is safer today than it was 10 years ago because of the changes we’ve made to probation. As probation departments have adopted [evidence-based practices], the number of probation revocations and new felony convictions has fallen, which has saved taxpayers almost \$400 million. Reinvesting a fraction of those savings in probation services could go a long way toward enhancing the safety of our communities.”

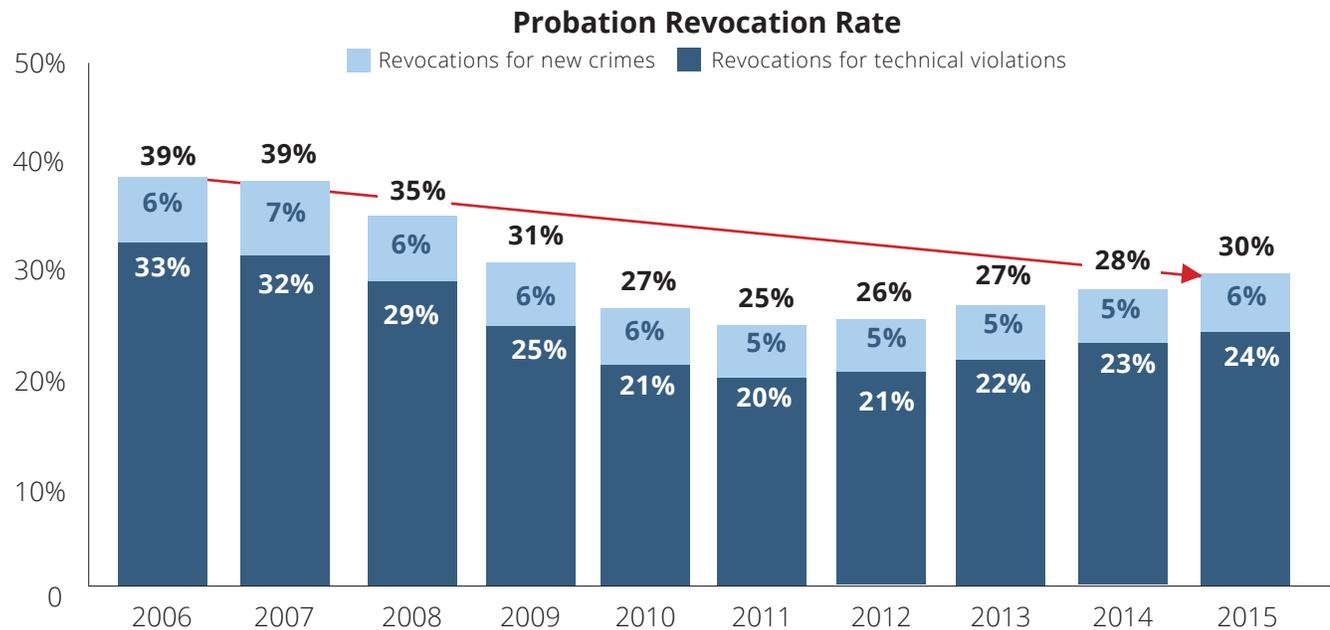
**KATHY WATERS,**  
 DIRECTOR, ADULT PROBATION SERVICES  
 ARIZONA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

1. Arizona Adult Probation, *Safer Communities Report FY2016*.
2. Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys’ Advisory Council, *Prisoners in Arizona: A 2014 Update on Selected Topics*. 2010 was the latest year of recidivism data available. To maintain a 10-year time span, 2001–2010 was used.
3. Arizona Adult Probation, *Safer Communities Report FY2016*.
4. FBI UCR Crime reports. 2015 was the most recent year of UCR crime data available.

# COLORADO

## 24-percent decline in the rate of probation revocations

Between 2006 and 2015, the rate of probation revocations dropped from 39 percent to 30 percent. Revocations for new convictions fell by 11 percent, and revocations for technical violations of conditions of probation fell by 26 percent.<sup>1</sup>



## ADDITIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY MEASURES



### 23-percent drop in reincarceration for new crimes

Between 2006 and 2012, the three-year reincarceration rate for a new crime declined from 18 percent to 14 percent.<sup>2</sup>



### Steady rate of returns to prison for technical violations

From 2006 to 2012, the three-year reincarceration rate for technical violations of conditions of supervision remained steady at 35 percent of all prison releases.<sup>3</sup>



### 19-percent decline in violent crime rate

Between 2006 and 2015, the number of violent crimes reported per 100,000 residents declined 19 percent from 395 to 321.<sup>4</sup>

PUBLICLY AVAILABLE RECIDIVISM DATA		PEOPLE RELEASED FROM PRISON	PEOPLE ON PAROLE	PEOPLE ON PROBATION
3-YEAR FOLLOW-UP	REARREST			
	RECONVICTION			
	REINCARCERATION	✓	✓	
ANNUAL REVOCATIONS	TECHNICAL VIOLATION	NOT APPLICABLE	✓	✓
	NEW CRIME	NOT APPLICABLE	✓	✓
	TOTAL	NOT APPLICABLE	✓	✓



## 2010 CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS

In 2010, the Colorado legislature passed a number of significant policies to improve the state's criminal justice system by

- Reducing penalties for low-level drug offenses and redirecting correctional savings to substance use treatment and behavioral health care;
- Requiring the Parole Board to consider a person's mental health and substance use treatment needs prior to revocation for a technical violation of parole; and
- Incentivizing people on probation to remain compliant with conditions of supervision by creating opportunities for early termination of their sentence.

## 17 SECOND CHANCE ACT GRANT AWARDS

Colorado has received nearly \$9.5 million in federal investments that include

- Four grants for state and local agencies to implement or expand screening, assessment, and pre- and post-release treatment for people with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders; and
- Two grants for a state agency and a court to implement evidence-based supervision strategies for people under probation or parole supervision and assess outcomes.

"Public safety is a fundamental responsibility of government. When people walk out of prison, they must have sufficient opportunities to reduce their risk of committing another crime and must be held accountable for their behavior. In Colorado, we recognize that reducing recidivism is an essential part of our broader efforts to keep our communities safe."

**RICK RAEMISCH**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



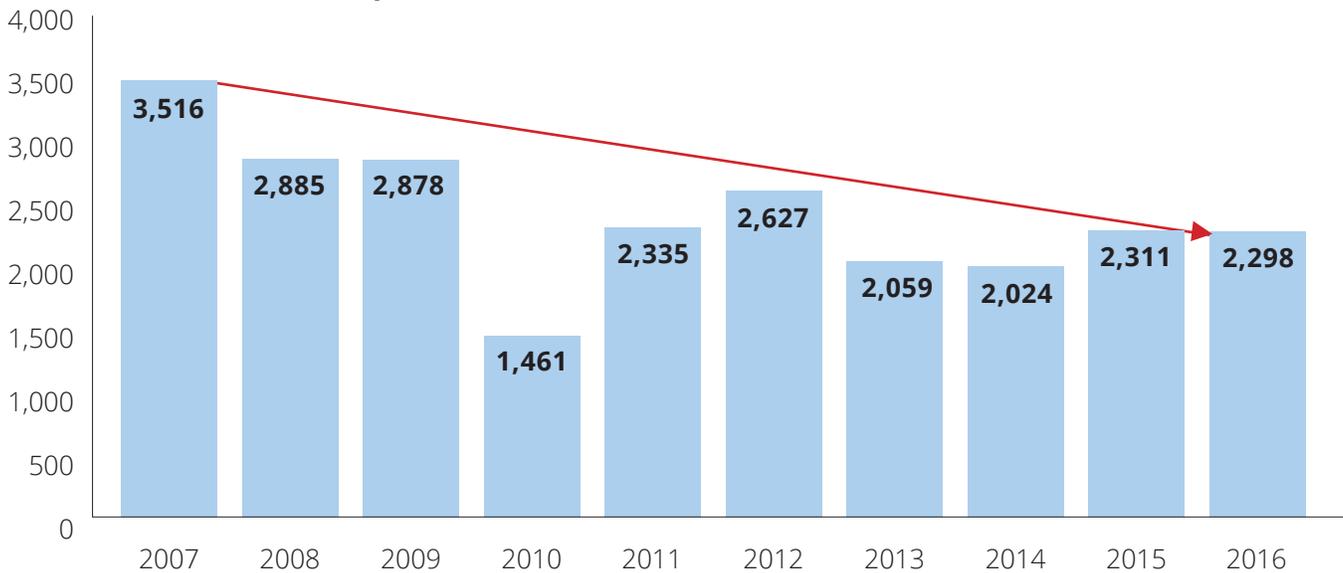
1. Colorado State Court Administrator's Office, Division of Probation Services, *Pre-Release Termination and Post-Release Recidivism Rates of Colorado's Probationers, FY2006–FY2015 Releases*. Technical revocations are defined as a technical violation relating to a criminal offense.
2. Colorado Department of Corrections, *Statistical Report 2015*. The 23-percent drop in returns to prison for new crimes is the percentage change between 18 and 14 percent.
3. Ibid.
4. FBI UCR Crime reports. 2015 was the most recent year of UCR crime data available.

# GEORGIA

## 35-percent decline in parole revocations to prison

Between 2007 and 2016, the number of people revoked to prison for parole violations dropped from 3,516 to 2,298. The number of people revoked to prison for new convictions fell by 666, and the number of people revoked for technical violations of conditions of parole fell by 552.<sup>1</sup>

**People Admitted to Prison Due to Parole Violations**



### ADDITIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY MEASURES



#### Steady conviction rate for people on probation

Between 2004 and 2013, the rate of probationers reconvicted for a felony within three years of starting supervision remained flat at 23 percent.<sup>2</sup>



#### 17-percent decline in probation revocations

Between 2007 and 2016, the probation population grew 17 percent, but the number of people on probation who were revoked to prison fell from 4,080 to 3,394.<sup>3</sup>



#### 21-percent decline in violent crime rate

Between 2006 and 2015, the number of violent crimes reported per 100,000 residents declined 21 percent from 478 to 378.<sup>4</sup>

#### PUBLICLY AVAILABLE RECIDIVISM DATA

PUBLICLY AVAILABLE RECIDIVISM DATA		PEOPLE RELEASED FROM PRISON	PEOPLE ON PAROLE	PEOPLE ON PROBATION
3-YEAR FOLLOW-UP	REARREST			
	RECONVICTION	✓		✓
	REINCARCERATION			
ANNUAL REVOCATIONS	TECHNICAL VIOLATION	NOT APPLICABLE	✓	
	NEW CRIME	NOT APPLICABLE	✓	
	TOTAL	NOT APPLICABLE	✓	✓



## GEORGIA COUNCIL ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Initially established in 2011, the Council conducted research on the state's criminal justice system and proposed several packages of policy changes, including HB 1176 in 2012, which

- Prioritized prison beds for people who commit violent offenses;
- Strengthened probation, drug courts, and other sentencing alternatives for people who commit nonviolent offenses through expansion of evidence-based practices and additional funding for behavioral health; and
- Improved performance measurement by expanding the Department of Corrections' processes to track and measure employment, substance use issues, and payment of victim restitution.

## 24 SECOND CHANCE ACT GRANT AWARDS

Georgia has received \$14.5 million in federal investments that include

- Three statewide recidivism-reduction grants to help executive-branch policymakers and state corrections departments plan and implement system-wide reforms to reduce recidivism; and
- Four grants to assist state and local agencies in planning and implementing collaborative pilot projects to measure the effectiveness of addressing key challenges faced by people returning to their communities after incarceration, focusing on those who are at a medium to high risk of reoffending.

"Georgia's approach to running its criminal justice system is becoming more driven by where the data and research point us. Instead of reacting to the latest anecdote, we're focused on tracking and driving down our recidivism rate and expanding effective tools for diversion, such as accountability courts. The result has been a safer state, fewer people in prison, and reduced costs for taxpayers."

**JUSTICE MICHAEL P. BOGGS**  
GEORGIA SUPREME COURT,  
CO-CHAIR CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM COUNCIL

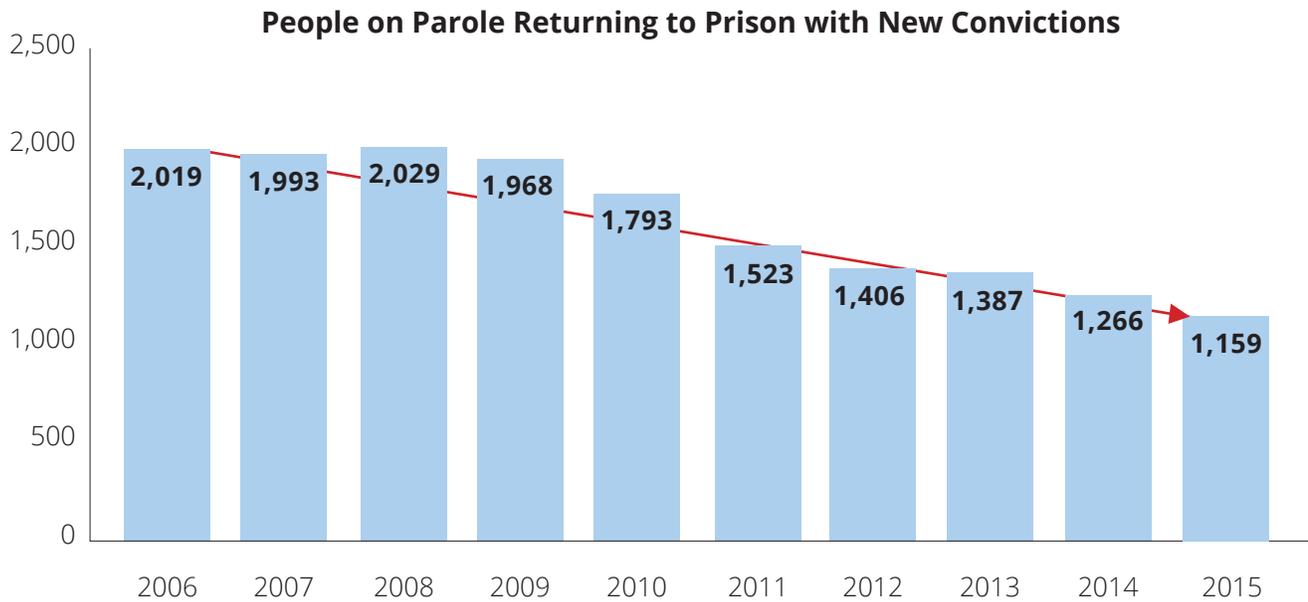


1. Georgia Department of Corrections, "3-Year Felony Reconviction Rates for Calendar Years 2003 to 2013."
2. Georgia Department of Corrections, *Inmate Statistical Profile FY2007–FY2016*.
3. Ibid.
4. FBI UCR Crime reports. 2015 was the most recent year of UCR crime data available.

# MICHIGAN

## 43-percent decline in people returning to prison from parole

Between 2006 and 2015, the number of people returning to prison from parole with new convictions dropped 43 percent, from 2,019 to 1,159. During this period, the total parole population declined only 16 percent, from 16,018 people to 13,472.<sup>1</sup>



### ADDITIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY MEASURES



#### 20-percent decline in rearrest rate for people on parole

The proportion of all parolees rearrested within one year of their release from prison fell from 30 percent in 2008 to 24 percent in 2011.<sup>2</sup>



#### 20-percent decline in three-year reincarceration rate

Between 2003 and 2012, the rate of people returning to prison within three years of release decreased from 39 percent to 31 percent.<sup>3</sup>



#### 26-percent decline in violent crime rate

Between 2006 and 2015, the number of violent crimes reported per 100,000 residents declined 26 percent from 564 to 416.<sup>4</sup>

PUBLICLY AVAILABLE RECIDIVISM DATA		PEOPLE RELEASED FROM PRISON	PEOPLE ON PAROLE	PEOPLE ON PROBATION
3-YEAR FOLLOW-UP	REARREST			
	RECONVICTION			
	REINCARCERATION		✓	
ANNUAL REVOCATIONS	TECHNICAL VIOLATION	NOT APPLICABLE	✓	
	NEW CRIME	NOT APPLICABLE	✓	
	TOTAL	NOT APPLICABLE	✓	



## PRISONER REENTRY INITIATIVE

In 2005, the Michigan Department of Corrections implemented the Prisoner Reentry Initiative, which created a number of policies that required

- Forming a Transition Accountability Plan to assess a person's risks, needs, and strengths to identify ways to reduce risk, address needs, and build upon strengths for sustained success;
- Using an integrated, interdisciplinary approach to reentry across health care, behavioral health, employment, education, and family support agencies; and
- Creating partnerships across corrections, probation, and parole departments to improve continuity of services after release.

## 14 SECOND CHANCE ACT GRANT AWARDS

Michigan has received nearly \$7.4 million in federal investments that include

- One grant for the Department of Corrections to establish career training programs in prisons to prepare people to succeed in technology-based jobs and connect them to post-release, community-based services; and
- One grant for a county to expand programs that provide substance use treatment and parenting programs for people who are incarcerated, as well as treatment and other services to the participants' children and family members.

"We gathered input and leveraged resources from across the state that went beyond just criminal justice to create reentry programs that are truly effective. Thanks to our focus on 'offender success,' we improved and expanded job-training and education programs for people in prison while giving them the support services they need in the community to ensure a safe transition and long-term self-sufficiency."

**HEIDI WASHINGTON,**  
DIRECTOR OF CORRECTIONS



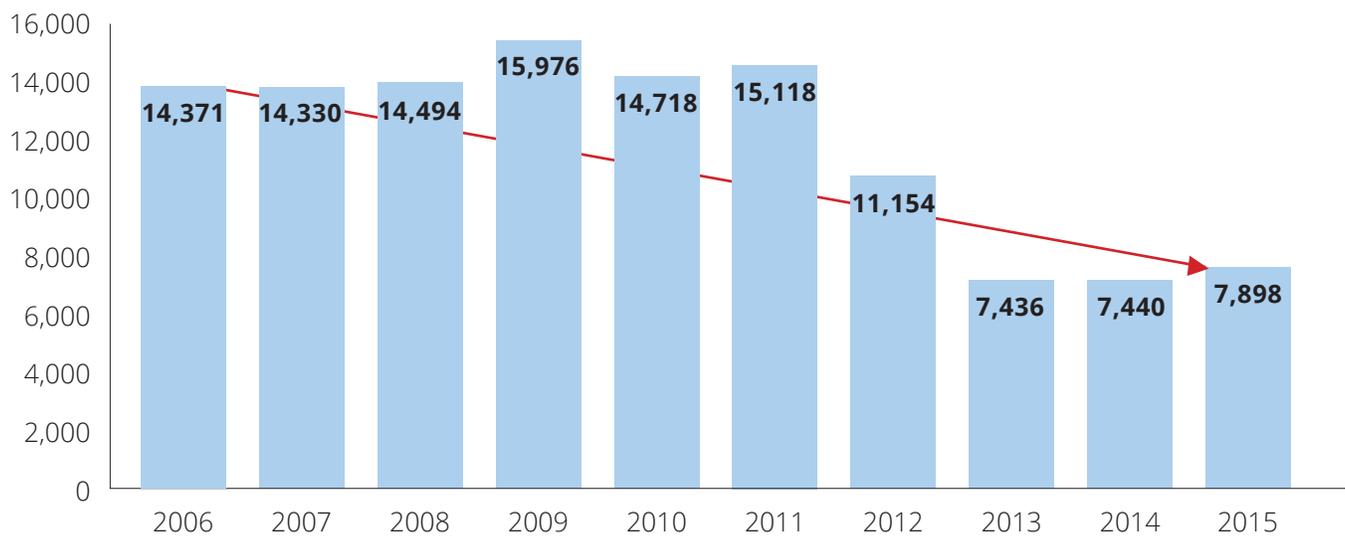
1. Michigan Department of Corrections, *2015 Statistical Report*.
2. The Council of State Governments Justice Center, "Fifth Presentation to the Michigan Law Revision Commission," <https://csgjusticecenter.org/jr/michigan/publications/michigan-law-revision-commission-fifth-presentation/>. 2008–2011 were the most current years available for recidivism tracking at the time of analysis.
3. Michigan Department of Corrections, *2015 Statistical Report*. Parole revocation rate is calculated by the total number of parole returns in a year divided by the average parole population during that year.
4. FBI UCR Crime reports. 2015 was the most recent year of UCR crime data available.

# NORTH CAROLINA

## 42-percent reduction in probation revocations

Between 2006 and 2015, the number of people admitted to prison for probation revocations declined 42 percent, from 14,371 to 7,898. During the same period, the total number of people admitted to prison decreased 10 percent, from 26,070 to 23,367.<sup>1</sup>

People Admitted to Prison Due to Probation Revocations



## ADDITIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY MEASURES



### 46-percent decrease in probation revocation rate

The proportion of people exiting probation who were revoked declined from 34 percent of probation exits in 2006 to 18 percent in 2015.<sup>2</sup>



### 7-percent decline in two-year reincarceration rate

Between 2003 and 2012, the number of people released from prison who returned within two years decreased slightly from 23 percent to 21 percent.<sup>3</sup>



### 26-percent decline in violent crime rate

Between 2006 and 2015, the number of violent crimes reported per 100,000 residents declined 26 percent from 475 to 347.<sup>4</sup>

PUBLICLY AVAILABLE RECIDIVISM DATA		PEOPLE RELEASED FROM PRISON	PEOPLE ON PAROLE	PEOPLE ON PROBATION
2-YEAR FOLLOW-UP	REARREST	✓	✓	✓
	RECONVICTION	✓	✓	✓
	REINCARCERATION	✓	✓	✓
ANNUAL REVOCATIONS	TECHNICAL VIOLATION	NOT APPLICABLE		
	NEW CRIME	NOT APPLICABLE		
	TOTAL	NOT APPLICABLE	✓	✓



## JUSTICE REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2011

In 2011, North Carolina enacted a significant set of criminal justice system policy changes that

- Provided substance use treatment, cognitive behavioral programs, and other evidence-based programming to people on supervision who have the greatest need for treatment and are at the highest risk of reoffending;
- Empowered probation officers to use swift and certain jail sanctions in lieu of full revocation to hold people on probation accountable in response to violations of conditions of supervision; and
- Required mandatory supervision for everyone convicted of felonies upon release from prison to help reduce recidivism.

## 9 SECOND CHANCE ACT GRANT AWARDS

North Carolina has received \$3.6 million in federal investments that include

- Two grants for local jurisdictions to implement or expand screening, assessment, and pre- and post-release treatment for people with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders;
- Two grants for local jurisdictions to implement pilot projects addressing the challenges faced by people returning to their communities after incarceration; and
- One grant for a state agency to develop more effective supervision practices that address the needs of people under correctional supervision who have serious and persistent mental health concerns.



“To reduce recidivism, we must change the culture of corrections. That means looking to the evidence on what works and adjusting how we do business. Today we work with people individually to understand what caused them to make poor decisions, engage and motivate them to change their behavior, and help them learn the skills they will need to be safe and successful in the community. As a result, in North Carolina we have experienced both cost savings and improved public safety.”

**W. DAVID GUICE, CHIEF DEPUTY SECRETARY,  
ADULT CORRECTION AND JUVENILE JUSTICE**

1. North Carolina Department of Public Safety, *Annual Statistical Reports, FY2004–2005 through FY2014–2015*. Confinements in Response to Violation (CRV) are not included. There were an additional 2,619 CRV admissions in 2015. People on probation for a Driving While Impaired (DWI) offense are included in this count.
2. Ibid.
3. North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission, *Correctional Program Evaluation: Offenders Placed on Probation or Released from Prison in Fiscal Year 2010/11 and 2013* reports.
4. FBI UCR Crime reports. 2015 was the most recent year of UCR crime data available.

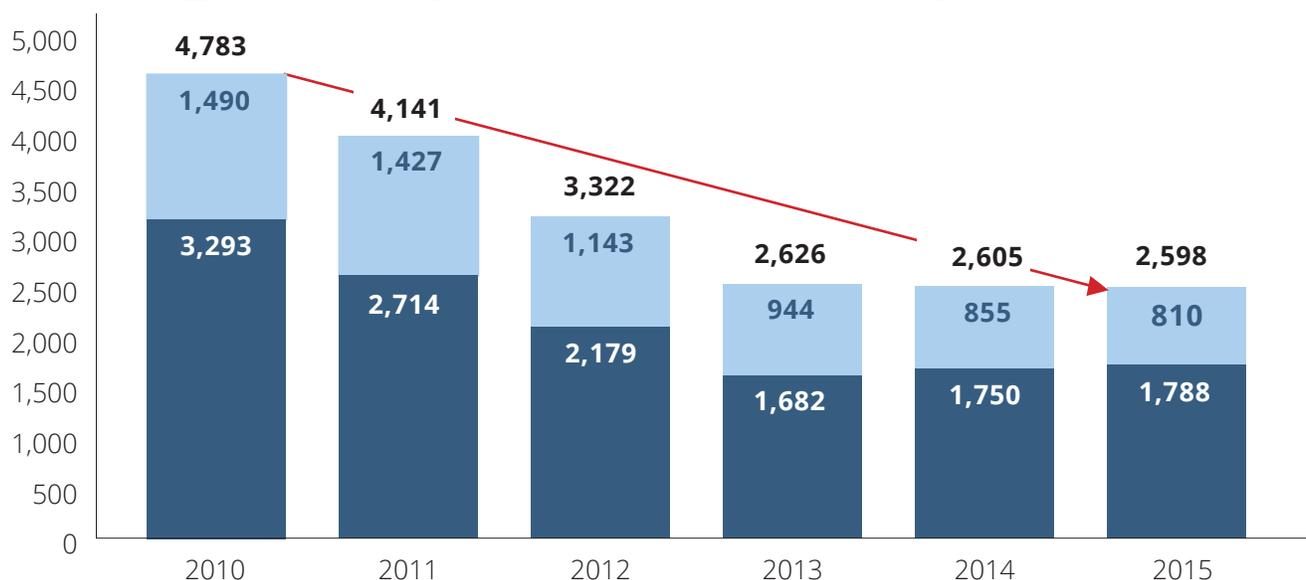
# SOUTH CAROLINA

## 46-percent decline in technical revocations

Between 2010 and 2015, the number of revocations for technical violations of conditions of supervision that resulted in admission to prison decreased 46 percent, from 3,293 to 1,788. Revocations not resulting in admission to prison also declined 46 percent, from 1,490 to 810.<sup>1</sup>

**Number of Probation and Parole Technical Revocations**

■ Revocations resulting in prison admission ■ Revocations not resulting in prison admission



## ADDITIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY MEASURES



### 21-percent decline in three-year reincarceration rate

Between 2004 and 2013, the rate of people returning to prison within three years of release decreased 21 percent, from 33 percent to 26 percent.<sup>2</sup>



### 25-percent drop in incarceration rate for people on supervision

The rate of incarceration within three years of starting supervision declined from approximately 20 percent for the 2010 cohort to 15 percent for the 2012 cohort.<sup>3</sup>



### 16-percent decrease in violent crime rate

Between 2010 and 2015, the number of violent crimes reported per 100,000 residents declined 16 percent, from 602 to 505.<sup>4</sup>

PUBLICLY AVAILABLE RECIDIVISM DATA		PEOPLE RELEASED FROM PRISON	PEOPLE ON PAROLE	PEOPLE ON PROBATION
3-YEAR FOLLOW-UP	REARREST			
	RECONVICTION			
	REINCARCERATION	✓		
ANNUAL REVOCATIONS	TECHNICAL VIOLATION	NOT APPLICABLE	✓	✓
	NEW CRIME	NOT APPLICABLE	✓	✓
	TOTAL	NOT APPLICABLE	✓	✓



## CRIME REDUCTION & SENTENCING REFORM ACT

In 2010, the South Carolina legislature passed an omnibus bill that codified criminal justice system changes by

- Mandating post-release supervision, authorizing earned discharge, enhancing the available administrative responses to supervision violations, and using risk assessments to guide supervision decisions; and
- Restructuring penalties for certain violent, property, and drug offenses to reserve prison space for people convicted of more serious offenses.

## 2 SECOND CHANCE ACT GRANT AWARDS

South Carolina has received nearly \$800,000 in federal investments that include

- One grant for a nonprofit organization to provide pre- and post-release mentoring and transitional services to people; and
- One grant for the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services to test innovative approaches to improve outcomes for people under probation supervision and implement evidence-based strategies.



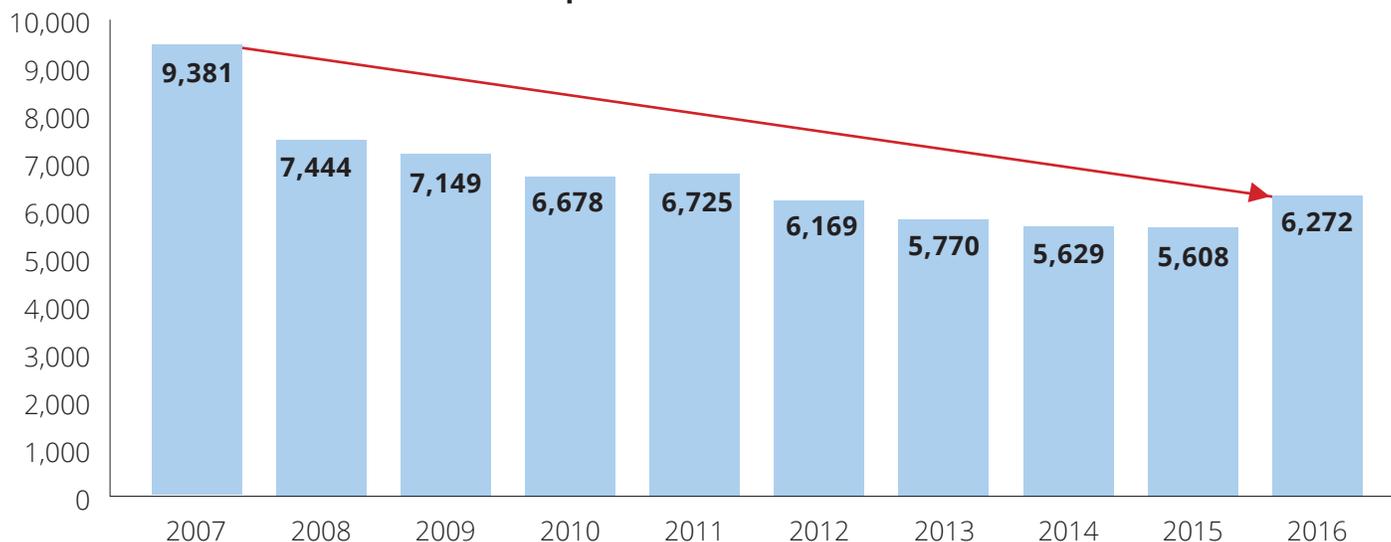
1. Urban Institute, "Assessing the Impact of South Carolina's Parole and Probation Reforms," April 2017. People on probation and parole supervision are overseen by the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services.
2. South Carolina Department of Corrections, "Return to Prison Rates of Inmates Released during FY1993–FY2013." 2013 was the most recent three-year recidivism data available. Includes people returning to prison on convictions for crimes committed prior to original incarceration.
3. Urban Institute, "Assessing the Impact of South Carolina's Parole and Probation Reforms," April 2017.
4. FBI UCR Crime reports. 2015 was the most recent year of UCR crime data available.

# TEXAS

## 33-percent decline in revocations to prison for people on parole

Between 2007 and 2016, the number of people revoked to prison from parole declined 33 percent, from 9,381 to 6,272. During that time, the parole population increased 14 percent, from 76,601 to 87,304 people.<sup>1</sup>

Number of People Revoked to Prison from Parole



## ADDITIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY MEASURES



### 25-percent decline in three-year reincarceration rate

Between 2004 and 2013, the rate of people returning to prison within three years of release decreased 25 percent, from 28 percent to 21 percent.<sup>2</sup>



### 6-percent decline in rearrest rate

Between 2004 and 2013, the three-year rearrest rate for people released from prison declined slightly, from 49 percent to 46 percent.<sup>3</sup>



### 20-percent decline in violent crime rate

Between 2006 and 2015, the number of violent crimes reported per 100,000 residents fell 20 percent, from 517 incidents to 412.<sup>4</sup>

### PUBLICLY AVAILABLE RECIDIVISM DATA

PUBLICLY AVAILABLE RECIDIVISM DATA		PEOPLE RELEASED FROM PRISON	PEOPLE ON PAROLE	PEOPLE ON PROBATION
3-YEAR FOLLOW-UP	REARREST	✓	✓	✓
	RECONVICTION	✓	✓	✓
	REINCARCERATION	✓	✓	✓
ANNUAL REVOCATIONS	TECHNICAL VIOLATION	NOT APPLICABLE	✓	✓
	NEW CRIME	NOT APPLICABLE	✓	✓
	TOTAL	NOT APPLICABLE	✓	✓



## JUSTICE REINVESTMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK

In 2007, the Texas legislature adopted a justice reinvestment framework that included policies that

- Enhanced the use of parole for people at a low risk of reoffending and expanded the capacity of treatment and diversion programs;
- Incentivized counties to create progressive sanctioning models for effective responses on probation; and
- Expanded the capacity of substance use treatment programs and the use of intermediate sanction facilities to divert people from prison.

## 35 SECOND CHANCE ACT GRANT AWARDS

Texas has received \$16 million in federal investments that include

- Two grants for nonprofit organizations to support young parents through programs that incorporate mentoring and transitional reentry services, parenting skills development, and family engagement;
- Two grants for a court and a county to collaborate with corrections agencies to provide reentry services to people returning to their communities in a geographic area where there is a disproportionate number of people being released from incarceration; and
- Three grants for local agencies to establish or enhance programs that provide family-based substance use treatment for people who are incarcerated.

“Rather than build new prisons, our state chose to invest in treatment and diversion alternatives. These investments have helped to reduce technical revocations from parole and probation and have provided additional treatment capacity, resulting in a reduction of our prison population by 10,000 people. These approaches—along with others—continue to pay dividends: we have closed four prisons since 2011 and plan to close four more this summer.”

**BRYAN COLLIER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

1. Legislative Budget Board, *Statewide Criminal and Juvenile Justice Recidivism and Revocation Rates, 2013, 2015, and 2016*. Due to three-year tracking period in a recidivism analysis, 2004–2013 was the most recent 10-year span of data available.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. FBI UCR Crime reports. 2015 was the most recent year of UCR crime data available.

# Featured States at a Glance

<b>ARIZONA</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>	<b>Volume Change</b>	<b>Percentage Point Change</b>	<b>Year Span</b>	<b>Definitions</b>
<b>Probation Revocations to Prison</b>	-29%	-1,997	N/A	2008-2016	Defined as the number of people revoked to prison for probation violations
<b>Rate of Probation Revocations</b>	-13%	N/A	-5 points	2001-2010	Defined as the number of people returning to prison within 3 years of release out of the total number released
<b>2-year Reincarceration Rate</b>	-21%	-678	N/A	2008-2016	Defined as the number of people on probation with a new felony conviction

<b>COLORADO</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>	<b>Volume Change</b>	<b>Percentage Point Change</b>	<b>Year Span</b>	<b>Definitions</b>
<b>Rate of Probation Revocations</b>	-24%	N/A	-9 points	2006-2015	Defined as the number of people revoked from probation out of the total number terminated from probation
<b>3-year Reincarceration Rate for New Crime</b>	-23%	N/A	-4 points	2006-2012	Defined as the number of people returning to prison for new criminal activity within 3 years of release out of the total number released
<b>3-Year Reincarceration Rate for Technical Violations</b>	0%	N/A	0 points	2006-2012	Defined as the number of people returning to prison for a technical violation of supervision within 3 years of release out of the total number released

<b>GEORGIA</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>	<b>Volume Change</b>	<b>Percentage Point Change</b>	<b>Year Span</b>	<b>Definitions</b>
<b>Parole Revocations to Prison</b>	-35%	-1,218	N/A	2007-2016	Defined as the number of people revoked to prison for parole violations
<b>Probation Revocations to Prison</b>	-17%	-686	N/A	2007-2016	Defined as the number of people revoked to prison for probation violations
<b>Probation Reconviction Rate</b>	0%	N/A	0 points	2004-2013	Defined as the number of people reconvicted for a felony offense within three years of starting probation

<b>MICHIGAN</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>	<b>Volume Change</b>	<b>Percentage Point Change</b>	<b>Year Span</b>	<b>Definitions</b>
<b>Parole Revocations to Prison</b>	-43%	-860	N/A	2006-2015	Defined as the number of people revoked to prison for parole violations with a new conviction
<b>Parole Rearrest Rate</b>	-20%	N/A	-6 points	2008-2011	Defined as the number of people with a new arrest within 1 year of being released to parole out of the total number released to parole
<b>3-year Reincarceration Rate</b>	-20%	N/A	-8 points	2003-2012	Defined as the number of people on probation with a new felony conviction

## NORTH CAROLINA

	Percent Change	Volume Change	Percentage Point Change	Year Span	Definitions
Probation Revocations to Prison	-42%	-6,473	N/A	2006–2015	Defined as the number of people revoked to prison for probation violations
Rate of Probation Revocations	-46%	N/A	-15 points	2006–2015	Defined as the number of people revoked from probation out of the total number terminated from probation
2-year Reincarceration Rate	-7%	N/A	-2 points	2003–2012	Defined as the number of people returning to prison within 2 years of release out of the total number released

## SOUTH CAROLINA

	Percent Change	Volume Change	Percentage Point Change	Year Span	Definitions
Technical Revocations of Supervision	-46%	-2,185	N/A	2010–2015	Defined as the number of people revoked from supervision for a technical violation of conditions of supervision
3-year Reincarceration Rate	-21%	N/A	-7 points	2004–2013	Defined as the number of people returning to prison within 3 years of released out of the total number released
Supervision Incarceration Rate	-25%	N/A	-5 points	2010–2012	Defined as the number of people incarcerated within 3 years of starting supervision out of the total number starting supervision

## TEXAS

	Percent Change	Volume Change	Percentage Point Change	Year Span	Definitions
Parole Revocations to Prison	-33%	-3,109	N/A	2007–2016	Defined as the number of people revoked to prison for parole violations
3-year Reincarceration Rate	-25%	N/A	-7 points	2004–2013	Defined as the number of people returning to prison within 3 years of release out of the total number released
3-year Rearrest Rate	-6%	N/A	-3 points	2004–2013	Defined as the number of people with a new arrest within 3 years of release from prison out of the total number released from prison

# JUSTICE CENTER

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS  
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